

I THINK THE FOLLOWING IS BLACKMAIL BY MY BILL HUSTON; I DON'T THINK THIS IS WHAT YOU INTENDED WITH YOUR LOCALISM INITIATIVE. NONE OF THE ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE!!!!!!!

Question for Gary Reinbolt (President and CEO of WSKG, Inc.), and the WSKG Public Telecommunications Council, Inc., 's Board of Trustees:

So much has transpired in our relationship: police, threats of police, threats of lawsuits, uptight attorneys yelling "shut off those cameras!" and writing cease and desist letters, stangely cancelled meetings, improperly closed meetings, secret meetings, lies, abuse of authority, overstepped bounds, inquisitions and banishment. I hope we can get over this and establish a dialogue on the issues I raise, because the issues will not go away, even if your strong-arm tactics eventually work at silencing me.

You know LOCALISM is one the four key points of PLAN:WSKG (along with DIVERSITY, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, and OPENNESS). My friend Peter Hudiburg says this localism a poor choice, because with little effort you can produce local content which is uncontroversial banal fluff: garden clubs, high school poetry slams, Rotary Club clambakes, photo essays about Cornell or ancient floods, Cancer walkathons, etc. But of course I see my localism initiative as being integral with WSKG allowing access to local community producers who would have editorial control over their own work. This is what community media is all about, and this is what we need here, not satellite-based corporate propaganda masquerading as news, nor 15+ hours per day of orchestral music by a small number of 18-19th century European composers, at the expense of the remaining 99.999999% of the entire history of world music. Not one or two elites "programming" the station, but a spirit of openness and involvement with the community which funds your operations. Not a thin veneer of localism, but real local and participatory public service broadcasting creating programs of substance about important issues which matter to this community.

In 1997, a group from Ithaca filed a Petition to Deny with the FCC, over the issues I raise. At that time, WSKG began a localism initiative to show the FCC it was serious about serving the public interest. After a year, the FCC denied the petition and granted the license. WSKG promptly reneged on it's prior promises as being too expensive.

In June 2006, all radio station licenses in NY State will expire. I've heard of a new "localism initiative", and just saw Crystal Sarakas out recording a high-school poetry slam. How do we know that this isn't a tactic WSKG is using to impress the FCC, to try to ward off any possible Petition to Deny this time around? How do we know you won't do as you did last time, killing your meager attempts at local programming the day after your license is renewed? My question to you is this: